

FROM WASHINGTON.
The National Debt Less than Estimated.
HIGH STATE OF AMERICAN CREDIT ABROAD
Effect of the President's Proclamation.

New-York Tribune.

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FORAYS BY REBEL CAVALRY.
Surprises, Skirmishes, Retreats, and Pursuits.
THE REBELS FINALLY DRIVEN OUT OF SIGHT.
THE SAD CONDITION OF THE REBELS.
Regulations for Sending Packages to the Army.
Gen. Sigel Urged for the Department of the West.
THE CASE OF COL. D'UTASSY.

the command of the Department of the West, of which death deprived Gen. Sumner. His long military experience and personal popularity in Missouri are thought to give him special qualifications for this position. With him in command, the execution of the conspiracy law would be greatly facilitated.

DEPARTMENT OF GEN. FRANKLIN.
Gen. Franklin has not yet responded to the summons of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, who have been expecting him here for several days. He is understood to be in Philadelphia. As the Committee cannot sit beyond the 4th of April, under the resolution of Congress, there is danger that the report may necessarily be made up without his important evidence.

THE D'UTASSY COURT-MARTIAL.
A mystery hangs over the sudden termination of the D'Utassy court-martial and the dismissal of the accused from the service. It appears that much time and labor had been expended in preparing the case for trial, procuring witnesses, and drawing the specifications. About one week since when the court was ready to proceed the specifications were not to be found. It was subsequently so strongly suspected that D'Utassy had stolen them that a separate specification, charging him with the theft was added making the whole number sixty-nine. In three D'Utassy is charged with the most serious offenses known to civil or military law such as inducing soldiers to desert whose evidence might be important against him—a capital crime; selling the commission of a captain, forging records of court-martials, extorting money from suitors. The court having assembled, and the witnesses being in attendance, an order was unexpectedly received, dissolving the court and directing the officers to proceed to their posts in the field. Simultaneously, Colonel D'Utassy was dismissed from the service, the smallest punishment that could possibly have been inflicted, had the least of the charges been sustained by the evidence, while, had the more serious ones been proven, he might have been sentenced to the penitentiary or to be shot.

STRANGE TERMINATION OF THE MATTER.
Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.
WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
THE NATIONAL DEBT.
It is officially ascertained that the National debt on the 1st of July next will amount to considerably less than the estimate of the Secretary of the Treasury, as was the case last year.

HIGH STATE OF AMERICAN CREDIT ABROAD.
While it is not strictly true that steps have yet been taken by the Government toward the negotiation of loans from foreign capitalists, or that offers of specific amounts have been received from them, it is certain that intimations have been received from leading houses in Europe to the effect that they are ready to lend on terms much more favorable than would have been anticipated by the most sanguine a few months ago, and it is believed that at least a hundred millions could be readily obtained from abroad.

It is understood that Stuart's Cavalry were in the vicinity of Point on Rocks on Tuesday night, with the apparent intention of crossing into Maryland.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS IN HOSPITAL.
The following deaths have occurred since last report:

THE PAYMENT OF THE ARMY.
The army will be paid up to the 1st of March as rapidly as possible. A large portion of the funds required for this purpose are already in hand; whether it will be necessary to issue additional legal tender notes to provide the balance is a mooted question.

RECEIPTS AT THE TREASURY.
The receipts at the Treasury from all sources, revenue, conversions and temporary loans, to-day, amount to more than two millions, about half of which came from conversions.

MAJ. GEN. SCHURZ.
The party of Ohio soldiers recently returned from the Southern barbarians, and whose depositions have been taken by Judge-Advocate-General Holt, were to-day by appointment introduced to the Secretary of War by Gen. Hitchcock. After complimenting them upon their fortitude and devotion to the Union, the Secretary presented to private Jacob Parrott, the boy who received a hundred lashes on his back without flinching, the first medal given under the recent act of Congress authorizing the presentation of medals to soldiers for meritorious services.

GEN. SIGEL'S RESIGNATION.
Nothing further has been done as to the resignation of Gen. Sigel, save to extend his leave of absence.

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THE CLAIMS AGAINST COSTA RICA.
The claims against Costa Rica comprised about 40 cases; of these 18 or 20 were, in the absence of the parties interested, managed by an attorney selected by the Government, and the remainder by Reverdy Johnson, Cushing, and other eminent counsel. J. M. Carlisle was attorney for Costa Rica, and the Italian Minister acted as umpire. The aggregate claims were \$2,500,000, but the result of the Commission is only \$25,000, or one percentum on that amount.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.
FORTRESS MONROE, Tuesday, March 24, 1863.
Twelve schooners from New-York are now taking in cargoes of oysters near the mouth of Elizabeth River.

THE NEW GUNBOAT SMITH BRIGGS, CAPT. LEE OF THE 99th N. Y. CO., COMMANDING, RECEIVED HER GUNS AT FORTRESS MONROE YESTERDAY, AND COMMENCED HER SERVICE AT ONCE.

The Yorktown Cavalier has the following:
The storm that commenced on Thursday and continued till Saturday was the most severe of the season. The snow fell to one foot in depth. The soldiers enjoyed snow-balling extensively.

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THE CONDITION OF THE REBELS.
The Government has received additional information going to show the sore straits to which the Rebels are reduced. This time the news comes through Baltimore bankers of Rebel affiliation, and relates to the utter ruin of the finances of the Confederacy, and the utter want of supplies for public or private use.

THE COMMAND OF WEST VIRGINIA.
It is not unlikely that Maj.-Gen. Milroy will be assigned to the command of West Virginia, the loyal people of that section of country having asked for him.

REGULATIONS FOR SENDING PACKAGES TO THE ARMY.
Orders have been issued requiring all packages sent by mail to soldiers in Hooker's army to pass through headquarters Post-Office for scrutiny. This regulation was made in consequence of the discovery that in several cases soldiers have received suits of citizens clothes by mail to facilitate their desertion.

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THE WAR IN TENNESSEE.
Advance of Rebel Cavalry Within Nine Miles of Nashville.
Skirmish and Surrender of 800 Union Troops.
ALL THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ALSO TAKEN.
The Rebels Pursued and All the Wagons Retaken.

Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
A Confederate cavalry force, under Forrest, Wheeler, and Wharton, crossed Harpeth River this morning, six miles above Franklin. Part of the Rebel force attacked our force at Brentwood, nine miles from Nashville, on the Franklin road. Our troops under command of Lieut.-Col. Bloodgood, consisted of parts of the 33d Indiana, 22d and 19th Wisconsin, in all, 800 men. After a feeble resistance, with only one man killed and four wounded, our force surrendered to the enemy. All the Government property was captured. Gen. Green Clay Smith, sent to Franklin, came up with a force, and pursued them six miles west of Brentwood, when he met the entire Confederate force, numbering 5,000 men, with only 500 men.

He succeeded in retaking all the wagons and ammunition, but being attacked by superior numbers, he was compelled to destroy them. He then fell back. When reinforcements reached him, the Rebels had decamped. We lost one officer and about fifteen men in killed, wounded, and missing. The Rebels lost some ten killed and wounded. Over fifty Rebel prisoners have been brought in.

The Rebel cavalry have been within four miles of the city, on the Harding and Charlotte Pike, to-day.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.
Rebels Moving in the Direction of Culpeper—Rebel Furloughs and Leaves of Absence Revoked—Rebel Account of the Operations of the Black Brigade in Florida.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The following has just been received from your special correspondent:

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
Our scouts yesterday reported the enemy moving infantry in the direction of Culpeper. They seem to fear a movement of our force in that direction. Gen. Lee has issued an order revoking all furloughs and leaves of absence.

Gen. Benham, formerly of South Carolina, has assumed command of the Engineer brigade, positions and all, vice Woodbury relieved.

Richmond papers of the 24th are at hand. They report no bad news.

The following is a Rebel account of the operations of the Black Brigade in Florida:

THE BLACK BRIGADE.
LAKE CITY, Fla., March 10.—Three Federal gunboats and two transports came up the St. John's River to Jacksonville this morning, and landed a force of negro troops, throwing out pickets as far as the brick-yard, a mile and a half. Our troops are being moved within three miles of the town, and a fight is expected in the morning.

LAKE CITY, Fla., March 11.—Our forces attacked the enemy near Jacksonville this morning at 9 o'clock. After hard fighting for twenty minutes we charged them, when they retreated in haste to their gunboats. Our infantry pursued them into town, and when near the Judson House Square encountered another force of the enemy, which was also driven back. One man and three horses killed on our side. Loss of the enemy not known. We captured a set of surgical instruments, which showed signs of recent use. Numbers engaged not known.

LAKE CITY, March 13.—The Union force at Jacksonville is estimated at 1,400 black troops with white officers. In the engagement of the 10th we lost Dr. Meredith and three horses. The enemy has lost one negro killed and several wounded. The enemy are fortifying Jacksonville with a view to its permanent occupation.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO.
SAN FRANCISCO, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The war-steamer Saginaw having been brought off to Mare Island, is now stationed in San Francisco harbor.

Dr. Joseph Prefontaine, commercial writer for the San Francisco press, died to-day.

Humphrey Grifflins, a prominent Sacramento politician, died yesterday.

Several exploring parties have returned from the new gold, silver, and copper mines bordering on the Colorado River. They express confidence that this region will rival the Washoe mines, and exhibits specimens of ore which are surprisingly rich.

The interior parties continue publishing biographical notices of many of the parties captured in the harbor on the pirate schooner Chapman, showing them all noted secessionists.

The prisoners are still at Fort Alcatraz, having undergone military examination, with what result the public is uninform.

THE IRISH LADIES' PATRIOTIC FUND BALL.—
The ball to be given at the Academy of Music on Easter Monday, for the benefit of the Irish Ladies' Patriotic Fund, will, judging from the arrangements now in progress, be a fine affair. Robert Emmet, and Thomas Addis his brother, Judge Daly, White, Clarke, and Brady, Richard O'Gorman, James T. Brady, and others, compose the General Committee.

IMPORTANT FROM KENTUCKY.
THE REBEL LONGSTREET'S ADVANCE.
THOUSANDS OF UNION TROOPS ARRIVING.
A Very Active Campaign Expected.

CINCINNATI, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The Rebel force which has occupied Danville, Ky., is believed to be the advance of Gen. Longstreet's division. Their coming is not unexpected. They will be promptly met. Several thousands of Union troops will arrive here to-day, and more are coming.

Look out for a very active campaign in Kentucky. Louisville, Ky., Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
We have had the usual quantity of exciting rumors respecting Rebel movements to-day, but none of them are traceable to any trustworthy source, and Headquarters are advised of no change in the Rebel status since last night. The Democrat says the Rebels in large force, under Breckinridge, are at Harrodsburg, and that the Union forces, under Gen. Carter, are falling back on Frankfort. Breckinridge is reported to have issued a proclamation declaring his intention of enforcing the Southern secession act, and rumor says that the act is being rigidly enforced in those portions of Kentucky now occupied by the Rebel force.

HONORS TO GEN. BURNSIDE IN CINCINNATI.—
He takes Command of the Department of the Ohio—Death of an Eminent Merchant.

CINCINNATI, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
Gen. Burnside was serenaded at the Burnet House last night. He takes command of this Department.

William J. Whiteman of the late firm of Springer & Whiteman of this city died at St. Paul, Minn., yesterday.

Another Advance by Cluke—The Capture of Mt. Sterling—Hopes of Capturing the Harrodsburg—Gen. Burnside and Gen. McDowell.

CINCINNATI, March 22, 1863.
Intelligence has reached here that the rebel Cluke, who made the last foray into Kentucky, emboldened by an advancing support from Knoxville, has commenced another march northward, with his command increased to nearly one thousand men, by accessions from all parts of the State. Yesterday or to-day—accounts differ—he marched to the capture of Mt. Sterling. On his approach our men mustered all their force, sick and wounded, making in all but about two hundred, with which they made slight resistance, and shortly surrendered. Cluke then set fire to the town, laying the Court House, and two squares in ruins. Re-enforcements are being sent to Paris and it is believed that Cluke can be cut off and captured by a dexterous movement from Frankfort and Lexington before the forces now advancing from Knoxville can give him succor.

THE NINTH ARMY CORPS GONE WEST.
We stated some days since that Gen. Parks had succeeded Gen. Smith, as commander of the Ninth Army Corps (Burnside's old command), but refrained from announcing at that time, that the Ninth was then enroute west, to join the forces in Gen. Burnside's new command. We believed it to be improper to notify the enemy of the intention of the military authorities to weaken one point and strengthen another, but as the fact is now a matter of public knowledge, we are glad to state that the Ninth passed through Baltimore yesterday. Gen. Burnside has preceded them, and is expected to arrive in Cincinnati as we announced by telegraph yesterday.

FROM FREDERICKSBURG.
Gen. Hooker's Care of his Great Army.
An intelligent and gallant young soldier of the 4th New-York Volunteers, who has just obtained a furlough for ten days to visit this city, arrived yesterday (Wednesday) morning from the great army of Gen. Hooker, having been granted the privilege, on account of his good conduct, before the next great scene of the war drama is enacted. He states that the army now opposite Fredericksburg are in the very best condition, and enjoy excellent health. They appear ready for any emergency, and only await the order of their brave commander, "Fighting Joe," to lead on to a glorious assault.

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PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.
HARRISBURG, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
In the House to-day the bill imposing a penalty on the bringing of negroes into the State was read and passed.

REPORTS OF THE YAZOO EXPEDITION.
FIVE IRON CLADS SAFELY THROUGH.
THE TROOPS FOLLOWING.
THE "CHILLICOTHE" DISABLED.
OUR FORCES ACTING ON THE DEFENSIVE.

CAIRO, March 24, 1863—7:50 p. m.
HON. OLIVER WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington: Sir: I have just received a communication from Lieut.-Commander Brees, dated Black Hawk, March 19.

The Admiral has got through Steel's and Black Bayou with five iron-clads and the Price, and is into Deer Creek, making all haste for Yazoo. Doubtless he is there now.

Gen. Sherman and the troops are following up. A. M. PENNOCK, Fleet Captain, and Commanding Squadron at Cairo.

PHILADELPHIA, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The following is a special dispatch to The Bulletin of this city:

CINCINNATI, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The Yazoo Expedition has come to a stand still. The Commercial of this city has a special dispatch from Greenwood which says:

The Chillothe in the last engagement was temporarily disabled by shot battering the slides to her port-holes, so that they could not be moved. Battery Wilson has been dismounted, and the guns returned to the gunboat De Kalb.

Stirring news is expected from that quarter. The reported evacuation of Haines' Bluff by the Rebels is not credited.

CAIRO, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
Reports from Greenwood, Miss., to Wednesday afternoon state that the fight had not been renewed. Both parties were making active demonstrations. The Rebels were mounting new guns, and otherwise strengthening their position.

THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.
Continuation of Quiescence along the Lower Mississippi—Haines' Bluff the Next Probable Place of Attack—Movement from Providence to Yazoo Pass—Prospect of a Simultaneous Assault on Haines' Bluff—Stories Concerning Rebel Scarcity of Supplies—The Canal Still in a Bad Condition.

ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE, Opposite Vicksburg, Below Young's Point, Madison Parish, La., Monday afternoon, March 24, 1863.

Everything continues quiet along the Lower Mississippi, and Vicksburg seems as far from its fall as it did a month ago. Movements are on foot, however, that indicate events will be long brought to a focus. I am not at liberty to mention these in detail; but will state that Haines' Bluff, 20 miles up the Yazoo, appears the most probable place for the next and earliest attack.

Our gunboats in this vicinity have found a method, I understand, of steaming above the Bluff from below without engaging the enemy's batteries; and you have already learned that a part of the flotilla, with a number of transports, have gotten through into the Yazoo by way of Yazoo Pass, 12 miles below Helena.

Part of Gen. McPherson's corps, the 17th, has left Providence for the Pass, and the remainder will embark in a day or two.

The movements of the Rebels at Vicksburg last week were for the transfer of troops by rail to Grenada, whence they can march by a good and short road to the Yazoo, where, as I have said, they will have no doubt dispute the passage of our forces. Should we be enabled to make an assault upon Haines' Bluff from above and below at the same time, which seems highly probable at present, we would no doubt be successful at that point, and have an excellent opportunity to march upon Vicksburg from the rear and possess the city.

No attack will be made, I presume, upon Haines' Bluff from above until the two Corps, the 13th and 15th, under McClelland and Sherman—the former at Milliken's Bend and the latter here—can fully cooperate with the assaulting party there. As Gen. Grant and Admiral Porter remain here, I suppose they will be the more important point of operations, and unless some new developments occur, I shall continue near the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief.

From deserters and spies we hear numerous stories of the growing scarcity of supplies in and about Vicksburg, but as the enemy is not yet out of from the Red River country or from the regular railway communication with the entire "Confederacy" by way of Jackson, Miss., there is little reason to believe his alleged suffering and deprivation are at all serious. However, as the siege extends itself, he will necessarily consume his substance, and his material strength be steadily reduced.

Another Prize Captured.
BALTIMORE, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The gunboat Reliance, of the Chesapeake squadron, captured yesterday the schooner Flying Cloud, loaded with percussion caps, pistols, shot, tools, silks, shoes, boots, &c., on the way to Dixie.

The warlike portion of her cargo was directed to the care of Major E. Griswold, the Yankee Provost-Marshal of Richmond. Several parties on board were made prisoners. The vessel was brought here to-day.

IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.
Farragut's Whole Fleet above Port Hudson.
Communication with Admiral Porter.
THE PORT HUDSON AFFAIR.

CAIRO, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
Later news from Vicksburg confirms the arrival of the sloop-of-war Hartford and gunboat Albatross at the mouth of the canal on the 20th. An officer from on board had arrived at Gen. Grant's headquarters, bringing dispatches. Seven of Admiral Farragut's steamers ran the blockade of Port Hudson.

After coming up the river some distance, all but two returned, and have probably gone to the mouth of Red River. Gen. Banks had not come up to make the land attack when the fleet ran the blockade.

Boats will pass into Lake Providence as soon as the current in that direction permits.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, March 25, 1863.
The following dispatches have just been received by the Navy Department:

CAIRO, Tuesday, March 24, 1863.
HON. OLIVER WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington: Sir: I have just received the following communication from Lieutenant Commander K. R. Brees, dated Black Hawk, March 20:

The Hartford is below Warrington. Admiral Farragut's Secretary came on board this morning en route to Admiral Porter. It will take him a week at least to communicate and get back.

He says that the Hartford passed the fort, but that the others were repulsed, and one was seen in flames. It is believed that the Mississippi was the ship destroyed.

A. M. PENNOCK, Fleet Captain, Commanding Squadron at Cairo.
From Our Special Correspondent.
CAIRO, March 23, 1863.

The latest which we have from Vicksburg and the Yazoo country is, that transports and gunboats, as well as troops, are pushing up the Yazoo from about Vicksburg, and that a conflict has been going on several days at Port Pemberton. This fort is reached by the Yazoo Pass, is about 200 miles from the Mississippi, on the Tallahatchie, and about five miles from its junction with the Yallahusha, which two rivers form the Yazoo. The distance thence to Yazoo City, the key to Vicksburg, is over 200 miles.

In the battle between our forces and Port Pemberton, the iron clads Chillothe and Baron de Kalb took a principal part, the former boat having been cut to some extent, and losing some men. The last account to last Monday night is, that a force of four or five thousand troops had been landed from transports to surround and flank the fort. It is not understood that there are any other forts between this and Yazoo City.

The weather here has been very fine, for two weeks it has not rained, and forest trees are budding out. The river has fallen six feet the last week.

There is considerable activity through this part of the State in arresting deserters. They are usually found camped out in the woods. They seldom resist. If they had the courage to resist they would not have deserted.

I recently had a long account of the condition of the slaves on the plantations, from an intelligent black who both reads and writes, and who, having been with our army nearly two years, took pains to inform himself on the subject.

He says that, when our troops first occupied Tennessee and other slave regions, the slaves expected they would be called upon to fight, and that they were very anxious to enter the service. When they were not called upon their spirits fell, and they were directed to be quiet, to keep quiet, and go on as before, and even behave so well that their masters would have no suspicion. I was not a little surprised to learn that the man by whom they most wish to be led, is Jim Lane. They have heard their masters curse him more than any other Northern man, and consequently, they look upon him as their friend. This is the South-Western Slave States, in the Gulf States, Fremont is the man.

It is now generally understood that the Rebels are raising negro regiments, with the promise of their freedom. This is the last card which either party has to play. It is presumed that if the Rebels can secure their independence in no other way they will turn the blacks. If they get the start of us in this matter, they will win.

There is a constant stream of refugees from the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. Sometimes the railroad passenger building here overflows with them. There is no doubt but their number is greater than our losses in the field. They seek interior farming regions, and the demand for tillable land is very great. Many of the families either remain in our army, or seek it when they settle their families. There is no mistake about their love for the Union. They are a valuable addition to our loyal population. Copperheads don't like them. They all agree that the country is nearly swept of provisions, and that many women and children are on the borders of starvation. The evils of war, in the States mentioned, are immensely increased by the thousands of guerrillas who have adopted this course of life in preference to serving in the Rebel army. First they plunder Union men, take their horses, and kill their cattle, and when this fails they rob their friends. As a consequence, property becomes insecure. Small farmers have not the heart to plant, even if they had teams.

I have learned the true reason why Gen. Grant would not suppress The Chicago Times. He judges, "You have law in Chicago, and a traitorous sheet it is. If The Chicago Times, as you have the power, to suppress it, you have power only to suppress a part of its circulation. Should you, upon fair trial, fail to enforce the laws, and I am called upon by the proper authorities to do it for you, then I can act. At present, I have other business, and you will please excuse me."

The following account of a genuine white man being held as a slave, I have from the most authentic sources:

A certain planter's daughter in Mississippi was seduced. To hide her shame she gave her child, a girl, at its birth to a slave woman, along with money, to bring up as her own. The child lived and became the mistress of the planter's son, who succeeded to the estate. She had by him five children, and among them the man I refer to, Charles Grayson. This was in Calhoun County, Mississippi, three miles from Paris. The father was at one time Clerk of the Court. At six years of age Charles was about this time his parents was told to him by his mother. He ran away, was captured, and treated with great harshness. He was made to do more work than the other slaves. The object was to break him down. He proved to be strong and able, to bear all the burdens put upon him.

On December 17, 1862, the 3d Michigan Cavalry came into the vicinity. Grayson then took a horse and rode into their lines. He took a good horse, so as to ride faster. He was then employed as a cook for the non-commissioned officers of Co. F, Capt. Theodore Reese. Becoming anxious about his future condition, he proposed to go North. The above-named officer, the Lieutenant Colonel, G. Rogers, and several substantial citizens of Jackson, Tenn., as well as a General high in command, assisted him to carry out his plan; and a few days ago he passed through this place on his way to Cass County, Michigan.

He has been a slave for seventeen years, is now twenty-three years of age, has straight, light hair, fair, blue eyes, a sandy beard, and evidently is a white man, with no drop of black blood in his veins. He has a singular appearance. He is totally ignorant. He scarcely knows what freedom is. He knows little more than that he is a white man. A negro slave has a subdued, and yet, at times, a gay air. On the contrary, Charles Grayson is continually sad and gloomy. He hardly knew how to thank his friends here who helped him to get his ticket; he seemed almost cold to the friend, a native of Boston, who had done most. This was the result of his long oppression, which has made him suspicious of every man being. In many respects, his case resembles that of Caper Haines.